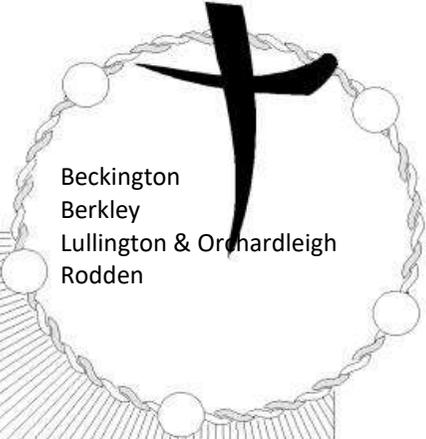


The Beckington Group of  
Parishes



Beckington  
Berkley  
Lullington & Orchardleigh  
Rodden



# Network

December/January  
2024

## CONTACT LIST

**In Vacancy**

**Please contact relevant Churchwarden**

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<b>Email:</b>	blythehouseconsultancy@gmail.com	07971 438694

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Acting Secretary	Maria Beaven	830535
<a href="mailto:maria.beaven@outlook.com">maria.beaven@outlook.com</a>		
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**Lullington with Orchardleigh**

<https://lullandorch.org.uk> Twitter @LullandOrch

Email addresses end with ...@lullandorch.org.uk

Churchwardens: wardens@...

Mike & Wendy Wilsher

Safeguarding officer: Mike Wilsher...

Treasurer: Jo Rathmell treasurer@...

Weddings: [weddings@lullandorch.org.uk](mailto:weddings@lullandorch.org.uk)

Wedding Verger [weddverger@lullandorch.org.uk](mailto:weddverger@lullandorch.org.uk)

### Beckington Web Site

[www.beckingtonbenefice.org](http://www.beckingtonbenefice.org)

### Beckington School Web Site:

[www.beckingtonandmellsfederation.co.uk](http://www.beckingtonandmellsfederation.co.uk)

### Berkley School Web Site:

[www.berkleyschool.co.uk](http://www.berkleyschool.co.uk)

### Springmead School Web Site:

[www.springmead.com](http://www.springmead.com)

### Beckington Memorial Hall

Sara Coffield 01373 710210

[beckingtonmemorialhall.org.uk](http://beckingtonmemorialhall.org.uk)

### Beckington Parish Council

[beckingtonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://beckingtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

Locum Clerk: Carolyn Wiggins

07941204145

### Berkley Parish Council

Clerk: Janet Harvey 01373 832303

### Bell ringing practice

at St. George's is every Thursday  
from 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Tower Captain: J Ball 830419

[johnagball.51@gmail.com](mailto:johnagball.51@gmail.com)

### Beckington Group Mothers' Union

Branch Leaders: Jenny Ayrton 01373

830208 & Glenys Brown. Meets 1<sup>st</sup>

Wed in the month except August.

### Beckington Tower Lighting

Mary Hickling 01373 830274

### Beckington Pre-School

[beckingtonpre-school.co.uk](http://beckingtonpre-school.co.uk)

Please submit items for publication in the

**February 2024 issue to:**

[beckington.network@gmail.com](mailto:beckington.network@gmail.com)

to arrive no later than **12 noon** on

**January 20<sup>th</sup>**

**For Network Advertising:** Mrs. J. Every

Please call after 4pm during weekdays

07540 133396 [Julie@every.net](mailto:Julie@every.net)

## Minister's Page

### **Christmas – A very special time of the year**

On Christmas Day everything stops; shops close, no buses or trains, no school, no work (unless you're in an essential service).

WHY? What makes Christmas Day so special?

It's special because we put our families first—we're happy to travel hundreds or even thousands of miles just to be with them.

It's special because we make a great effort, we really go out of our way, to show our love by giving presents and cards and we decorate our homes and gardens with lights.

Because it's so special we have a feast of delicious food and drink: turkey with all the trimmings and Christmas pies, puddings and cake etc etc...

Reversely this makes it a particularly difficult time of the year for those who can't enjoy all this because they have no close family or because they remember a loved one who has died.

**“Silent Night, Holy Night”** is the start of one of the Christmas carols. **Holy** is another way of saying special. We make Christmas holy or special when we avoid doing ordinary routine things and have traditions unique to that day; when we make Christmas Day different from every other day of the year-like a Super Sunday (or like Sundays used to be).

Yet surprisingly and counter-intuitively what we are celebrating at Christmas is the super-ordinary way that God came into the world. Everyone would have expected God's King and Messiah to appear directly from heaven in the palace, instead of that, Jesus was born as a baby just as we were, to ordinary poor parents. Joseph and Mary probably couldn't have afforded to stay at the inn even if there had been a room available! On top of that, people knew that the couple had “had” to get married Jesus was conceived out of wedlock. That stigma plus the fact that he came from the northern town of Nazareth and was a carpenter meant that Jesus' hearers couldn't believe that he was God's son.

But it does mean that God now feels and knows all our struggles: he has fully entered into **our** world. A world where this Christmas, money is tighter and it will be more difficult to buy those special presents and Christmas food. A world which is hurting and confused, and in Israel/Palestine, the land that we call 'holy,' there is now war and suffering and; as I write this in November there are no plans for peace. We may feel powerless but we can direct our prayers through the one who fully knows our human mess: Jesus.

Andrew Kellett  
Retired Baptist Minister



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Further information and an application form are obtainable from:  
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# Christmas OPENING TIMES

	FARM SHOP	GIFT SHOP & FLORISTS	CAFE & RESTAURANT	THE CHIPPY
Thursday 21st	8am - 6pm	9am - 5pm	8.30am - 4pm	11.30am - 8pm
Friday 22nd	8am - 6pm	8.30am - 6pm	8.30am - 4pm	11.30am - 8pm
Saturday 23rd	8am - 6pm	8.30am - 6pm	8.30am - 4pm	11.30am - 8pm
Christmas Eve	8am - 1pm	8.30am - 1pm	8.30am - 1pm	Closed
Christmas Day Boxing Day Wednesday 27th	<i>Merry Christmas!</i> SORRY, WE'RE CLOSED!			
Thursday 28th	8am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	8.30am - 4pm	11.30am - 8pm
Friday 29th	8am - 6pm	9am - 5pm	8.30am - 4pm	11.30am - 8pm
Saturday 30th	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	8.30am - 4pm	11.30am - 8pm
New Year's Eve	9am - 3pm	9am - 3pm	9am - 3pm	Closed
Monday 1st	<i>Happy New Year!</i> SORRY, WE'RE CLOSED FOR THE DAY!			
Tuesday 2nd	8am - 6pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 4pm	11.30am - 7pm



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# Christmas Services



*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9 v 6*

## **Sunday 10th December**

6pm All Saints Rodden Carol Service

## **Sunday 17th December**

11.15am St Katharine's East Woodlands Carol Service

6pm St George's Beckington Carols by Candlelight

## **Christmas Eve**

11.15am St Katharine's East Woodlands Holy Communion

4pm St Mary's Berkley Crib Service

6pm All Saints Lullington Carol Service

11pm St George's Beckington 'Midnight' Holy Communion

## **Christmas Day**

9.30 am All Saints Rodden BCP Holy Communion

10am St George's Beckington All-Age Holy Communion

## **Sunday 31st December**

10am Service for the Whole Benefice at St George's



## St. George's Beckington

### Floodlighting

**Margaret Matthews 23<sup>rd</sup> November**  
In memory of a loving wife,  
mother and grandmother

**In loving memory of Richard who  
died on November 29<sup>th</sup> 2012 and  
my young family killed in the  
MH17 crash over Ukraine in 2014.**  
**Penny Hoare**

If you would like the tower to be  
floodlit, please contact: Mary  
Hickling  
[maryhickling@btinternet.com](mailto:maryhickling@btinternet.com)  
or 830274 - Suggested cash  
donation of £10.00 please.  
Thank you.



**Could you Help... Occasional  
Transport Needed For Attending  
Church Services at St George's  
Beckington And St Mary's Berkley**

For some members of our church  
family, the practicalities of attending  
a church service is not always easy  
and straightforward – that's why we  
are starting up a 'car lift service' to  
anyone who would like a lift to  
services at St Georges and St  
Marys.

We will be creating a whatsapp  
group of willing volunteers who  
would be able to offer lifts – any  
requests for lifts would then be

posted within the group. If you are  
able to help, do please contact  
Maria Beaven 07940420596 with  
details of your name and mobile  
number.

Similarly, if you would like a lift to  
Beckington or Berkley services,  
please also contact Maria and a lift  
will be organised for you.

### **A Huge Thank You To The Unsung Network Delivery Team!**

Every single Network magazine is  
kindly delivered by hand, by a team  
of volunteers who, come rain or  
shine, deliver Network to your door.  
**Thank You** on behalf of all the  
Benefice team for your amazing  
work and dedication.

### **Cleaning At St George's**

Thank you to everyone who  
volunteered and gave their time to  
help clean St George's church on 4<sup>th</sup>  
November – We are now cobweb  
free and shining brightly!

### **New Informal Art Group**

Chance to paint/draw/collage or  
create (in your own way), together  
just for pleasure. If you are  
interested contact:  
[jo@mijocasey.plus.com](mailto:jo@mijocasey.plus.com)

### **Please Note...**

This year "**Carols Around the Tree**"  
(usually, very kindly, arranged by the  
Hillmans) will take place at the  
**Memorial Hall Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**December 4pm-6.00pm** with festive  
drinks and nibbles.

Please save the date and come and  
join us.



## All Saints Rodden

The Festive Coffee Morning on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November was very successful raising over £300 for Rodden Church. Many thanks to all those who attended and supported us.

**This year's Carol Service at Rodden will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm.**

This year, there will again be **Carols on the Green on Styles Hill at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December.**

**On Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December there will be a Holy Communion Service at 9.30am.**

### **RODDEN 200 CLUB**

The final draw for 2023 was held at our recent Coffee Morning in the Church Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

The winners were :

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £50 no 55 Kate Lewis**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £25 no 52 Michael Payne**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £15 no130 Bill Vallis**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 no 183 Sarah-Jane Boyce**

Thanks to all those who took part in the 200 Club enabling almost £600 to be raised for Church Funds.

Michael Ruddick  
200 Club Secretary & Church  
Treasurer

## Springmead School

We are delighted to share with you the news that over the half term holiday, Ilka Brown, our artist in residence and our headteacher Sally Cox attended the Independent Schools Association (ISA) South West Regional Art Competition in Cornwall where Springmead pupils' art entries were placed 1<sup>st</sup> in three categories: a remarkable achievement. With over 80,000 schools in the South West region our talented artists shone. These pieces will now be put forward to the ISA Autumn Study Conference where the national finals will be held next week.

The art department at Springmead has been gathering momentum over the last few years, with specialist teachers, inset training and our invitational clubs allowing some of our best pupil artists to have time together, inspiring each other, learning skills and honing techniques, all while under the watchful guidance of passionate teacher artists. Our enrichment week focus was art this year and introduced new ideas, a study of the history of art, and time spent with a working artist sharing their skills and life as a creator.

Our first art exhibition this summer, was a fabulous celebration of our whole community's passion for creative arts and this has been continued, through the building of our exciting art studio. We can't wait for the finish line to be in sight and to continue the amazing work that occurs each day in our school in this new specialist space.

## Beckington First School

I am writing this on Children in Need Day: the whole school are dressed in bright or spotty clothes and we have raised money for charity by having fun!

We are currently enjoying cricket coaching sessions for each class on Fridays through Somerset Cricket which are brilliant for children's skills development. The Y3/4 children who played hockey with Springmead enjoyed trying out new skills and developing their team camaraderie. We have also enjoyed football, gymnastics and superhero sports with IGSports.

Our open afternoons have been well attended and our ambassadors enjoyed celebrating what they value about our school with the visiting prospective parents. We had different activities going on around the school including science, making electrical circuits; art, making clay poppy bowls; computing, solving coding problems; design technology and lots of different activity in early years.

Last week, our Year 3/4 children went to lay Remembrance crosses outside St George's Church. Steve Jenkins from the British Legion spoke to them, and the children read prayers before a two minute silence. We continue to enter federation teams (with Mells) in the cross country competition: most recently the race was round Collett Park in Shepton Mallet. The children find it hard to keep running, but enjoy the challenge and it continues to be a popular activity.

We are looking forward to our Christmas plays, parties and Christingle service in St George's church.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

This will be my last Network article as, after just over 15 years as headteacher at Beckington, I am leaving to pursue other interests, taking early retirement. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as part of the school and local community and feel a huge sense of pride when I learn about what children have gone on to achieve after leaving our successful and nurturing setting. I know the children leave feeling confident and ready for their next steps of learning! The school will continue in good hands as Adam Summers takes on the role of headteacher from January. Best wishes to all.

Claire Chantler



### Mouse Makes



### GOD'S PROMISE

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

CHILD • BORN • SON  
GIVEN • WONDERFUL  
COUNCELLOR  
MIGHTY • GOD  
EVERLASTING  
FATHER • PRINCE  
PEACE • LORD



### AN ANGEL MESSENGER

*Luke 1:26-38*

ANGEL • GABRIEL  
JOSEPH • MARY  
FAVOUR • SON  
JESUS • GREAT  
THRONE • REIGN  
FOREVER • HOLY  
SERVANT • WORD



**ADVENT**  
comes from  
the Latin  
'AD VENTO'  
which means  
**ARRIVAL**

In Advent we  
celebrate Jesus' birth  
and look forward to  
the time when Jesus  
will come again.



### A LONG JOURNEY

*Luke 2:1-20*

BETHLEHEM  
REGISTER • BIRTH  
MANGER • INN  
SHEPHERDS • FLOCK  
ANGELS • JOY  
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE  
SAVIOUR • CHRIST



### THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

*John 3:16*

GOD • SO • LOVED  
WORLD • HE • GAVE  
ONLY • SON  
WHOEVER • BELIEVES  
ETERNAL • LIFE

V	R	P	R	I	N	C	E	L	R	O	D
W	O	R	D	C	F	A	T	H	E	R	E
J	A	G	M	A	N	G	E	R	G	E	B
O	W	H	O	E	V	E	R	W	I	I	J
S	J	O	Y	B	O	R	N	O	S	G	E
E	S	L	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	N	S
P	P	Y	J	C	H	I	L	D	E	P	U
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B	I	R	T	H	S	W	O	F	O	D	L
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N	E	O	G	O	O	D	N	E	W	S	N
F	L	O	C	K	M	I	G	H	T	Y	B

## Christmas Eve Family Crib Service



**Christmas music with Beckington Bandits and Crib Service from 4pm. Do come and join in this final Crib service sharing with others the amazing story of God's greatest gift to the world.**

The Crib Service on Christmas Eve brings to a close our part in sharing the message of God's Love from this building. The Baptist Church here in Beckington has over some 267 years sought to share the message of God's Love with the community. To support this, the church sought to help folk to receive some basic education. In the days before schools were available for working class children, the church established a Sunday School and later a day school, in which the children were taught to read, write

and love the Bible. With the Crib Service this Christmas Eve, which tells again the story of God's greatest gift to the world, I share just a small part of the history of the Baptist Church here in Beckington as it draws to a close its active participation in the life of the Village.

The church has had a long and interesting history in the life of the village. The present buildings have their foundation in 1756, many alterations and additions have been made as the church has served the community. Over the years, members of the church have been responsible for establishing a number of academic establishments in the village, each sharing the Gospel story. The church in 1851 resolved to set up a Day School for the children of workers living in the village. This enterprise opened with some 64 scholars. This was some years prior to the founding of the church school in the village. The Baptist school functioned in those days despite opposition from the established church. Opposition came because the Baptist School was from a Non-Conformist group. The Baptist school remained active until 1887 employing a teacher, Miss Cuzner who was trained in London to be the school mistress. It taught children how to read and write, but of course most importantly it taught the story of God's love and the way of Salvation.

The church members over the years have been associated with much of the life of the community. The church has been involved in seeking to support those in the community who have needed special help. In

1847 a Visiting and Sick Society was set up and many were helped.

In 1892 the fund was used to help those suffering in the village during an epidemic of influenza. Regular contributions were also made to the local hospital and District Nursing Society. With the development of government social care provision, needs changed.

We live now in a much more secular world and folk seek less Spiritual and financial support from the church. The changes in Society has resulted, as it has in many other places, with a change of population and social lifestyle and less affiliation and involvement with Churches. The Baptist Church here has experienced this, resulting in the fact that church membership and attendance has depleted.

Our more recent history for children has revolved in the church providing facilities for the Pre School, and for a Mums and Toddlers Group. A group known as Beckington Bandits a brass band, came into being here. Band members have now progressed to be linked to Wells City Band.

The church was also used by other small groups, an Astronomy group and a Mutual support group and the Royal British Legion. Sadly, the scene has now changed. Most user groups have also lost support and have ceased to function. Logistics now calls attention to the age of the church members. We have had to accept the ill health of three of our fellowship, and the fact that others are now no longer able to drive their cars. We sustained the death of our organist, and two

trustees and deacons. These pressures caused the decision to be made to close the church. Because of circumstances just stated, we are no longer a viable congregation with personnel to serve the community and fulfil a role in sharing the faith. We can as members no longer fulfil the roles needed to maintain a Worshiping fellowship together with care of the church fabric of this Grade 2 listed building.

The Future use of the building will be in the hands of the Baptist Union. The church buildings are held in trust by the Baptist Union of Great Britain and are also listed by British Heritage. These organisations have been informed of the decision of the local church to close.

The Baptist Union will be taking over the church buildings etc from early 2024. What happens in the future is in the hands of the Baptist Union who may decide to let the building for community use, or may put the building up for sale. The Future lies in the hands of these trustees and is not part of decisions made by the local church. We make our decision with sadness, but also with pride recalling our history, as we cease to be a functioning church to serve the community.

We make supportive prayers for the Benefice as it seeks its own new leader. One door closes and others can open: thanks be to God.  
Amen.

Rev. Michael I White  
Baptist Minister.

## Standerwick Carol Service

Frome Market will be holding a Carol Service at the Standerwick Cattle Market restaurant on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm followed by a buffet supper and auction. All proceeds will be donated to the Market Health Hub.

## Standerwick, Berkley & Beckington W.I

There were a good number of members at our November meeting, in spite of the wet, windy weather. We were transported by two of our members to Vietnam where they holidayed over Christmas 2022. They gave us a fascinating talk and showed us a video which gave us an insight into its people, its rivers, temples and beautiful scenery.

Some members attended a Card Making class on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November. This was held in the Clifford Suite of Beckington Village Hall.

We will be having a Christmas meal at The Bell, Standerwick on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December (7 for 7.30pm) Our next meeting will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in Beckington Village Hall, Alison Rossiter will talk about " My travels on a bike".

There will be no meeting in January 2024 but we will be having a Beetle Drive in The Clifford Suite (2 for 2.30pm) on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Our first monthly meeting in the New Year will be on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>

February in Beckington Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. The Speaker, Neil Clarke, will talk on the history of Clarks Shoes.

If you would like more information, please contact our secretary, Kathy Kingman

[contactkathy@btinternet.com](mailto:contactkathy@btinternet.com)

## Community Coffee Morning Beckington



**New Practice Pharmacist:**

We welcome Lydia Davies our Practice Pharmacist to the team, who will be working to improve the quality and safety of prescribing along with the management of long-term conditions and dealing with prescription problems such as supply issues.

**Flu Vaccination:**

Reminder for any eligible patients to book in for their flu vaccination before the end of the 2023 season. You can book your appointment in the following ways:

- Telephone the surgery after 2 p.m. on 01373 830316 or 01373 464731
- In person at Reception desk in Fromefield or Beckington Surgery
- Via your online Patient Access account

**A Reminder Of Recent System Changes:**

We are asking all patients to complete an online form when requesting a doctor's, nurse practitioner's appointment or have an admin query. This applies to on the day and routine doctor's appointment requests. This form is accessed via the Beckington Family Practice website. All nurse and health care assistant appointments will still need to be booked via the telephone.

The online request form will be available between 8am and 5pm

every weekday except Bank Holidays. The service may be unavailable at times due to high demand or staff training. You are able to complete this on someone else's behalf, for instance children or someone you are caring for.

Should you not have access to the internet, you can still call reception on either 01373 830316 or 01373 464731 and a member of the team will be able to fill this form out on your behalf.

All medical issue request forms will be reviewed and assessed by a doctor on the day. You may receive a text, phone call or be invited to come for an appointment at the surgery. Please ensure you keep your phone with you and be aware that phone calls from the surgery will display as 'No caller ID'. N.B. Admin queries include requesting Fit (sick) Notes, test results and repeat prescriptions or anything else admin related.

**Christmas and New Year period:**

We will be closed on Christmas, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day only. If you require non-urgent medical advice during this time, please call 111. Normal opening hours will apply on all other days.

The Beckington Family Practice wishes you a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

## **New Year, new vicar?**

We have reached an exciting milestone in the search for our new vicar, with the advertisement now appearing in the Church Times and on the Bath & Wells Diocesan website and a closing date of 13 December. Shortlisting will take place in December and interviews in January, so as most clergy have to give three months of notice in their previous parish or post, it is likely that they will actually join our group of parishes sometime around the end of April.

We are hopeful and praying that we will have some good news to announce in the February edition of Network, so watch this space!

Beckington Village Choir invites you to its

# *Christmas Concert*



at St. George's Church, Beckington

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm**

Director: Neil Moore - Accompanist: Alan Burgess

*Come and enjoy a wide range of seasonal pieces by John Rutter, Philip Stopford, Bob Chilcott and many others*

**Tickets £10 payable at the door  
Children Free**

*Mulled Wine and Mince Pies afterwards*

## Beckington Village Choir

Now recruiting new singers to join a friendly and welcoming mixed voice village choir. No audition required.

If you love to sing, please come along.

**We practice on Tuesday evenings in Beckington Memorial Hall from 7.30pm till 9.15pm. Starting back on September 5th**

For more information, please contact Marianne Burke 07884185143

### **April Retreat 2024**

December: Receiving expressions of interest for Langasty retreat (LD3 7PX) 24-26 April.

Approx £190 full board, mostly non ensuite, shared transport.

January: Receiving applications for the above. Details: 01985 300025 or [weymontmartin@gmail.com](mailto:weymontmartin@gmail.com)

## **Neighbourhood Plan For The Civil Parish Of Beckington, Rudge & Standerwick**

A Neighbourhood Plan will set out a planning policy that represents the views of residents with respect to future development in our community. This can cover social, economic and environmental issues, such as housing, amenities and businesses.

Following the open meeting in Beckington Memorial Hall, a steering group has been established to produce a plan. Residents are key to this and will be consulted by questionnaire, drop in sessions etc – everyone's voice is important. The plan that emerges has to be carried by a majority in a referendum of the residents.

Further information will be posted on the Beckington Parish Council website.

Beckington, Rudge & Standerwick  
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

### **For Sale/Wanted**

If you would like an entry in this column, please send it to Julie Every (see inside front cover).

A suggested donation of £2 towards Network would be appreciated which can be left in the slot in the wall inside St George's church when open. Private advertisements only please.

## **Beckington Memorial Hall**

We held our AGM on Monday 30<sup>st</sup> October, this is our Acting Chairman's report.

The last year has seen the Hall thrive as a village hub for many recreational activities. Fitness and wellness classes, crafts and hobbies, choirs and stage performances, sporting events, weddings and parties, church and charity events, and even serious meetings. They all happen in our Hall. Thus, I would like to thank all those who help to make this happen and also all those in the village who support and use the Hall.

Essentially, the Hall is managed and run by a diverse and willing group of volunteers who all give their time freely for the benefit of the community. At monthly meetings decisions and ideas are considered collectively in the best interests of the Hall and the village of Beckington.

I'd like to thank our management team (Trustees) of David Norman, Stan Wilson, Laura Parry, Sara Coffield and Hannah Drury. Further thanks are due to our working committee members and others namely David Costello, Suzanne Chillman, Jeanette Hurst and Roz Serle all of whom contribute so much in many ways and work with the management team.

Last year we made commitments to upgrading the play area. I'm pleased to say that this has now commenced. Hannah, Suzanne, Jeanette and Roz formed a subcommittee to move the project forward. After examining the costs involved it became clear that fund

raising would be of huge importance. Thus, it has been good to see successful fund-raising events take place in the shape of the children's trail, the hall quiz night and others. Again, thanks to all who helped and participated. A sponsor a square scheme has been launched to raise funds for the matting and momentum is starting to build here. Our thanks are due yet again to the Beckington Players who always raise considerable sums for the hall. Abi McGillivray and friends, thank you. Following their magnificent Dick Whittington production, the committee allocated the £4,750 to the play area project. What was a dream is now becoming a reality and work has started.

So much goes on behind the scenes to keep the Hall ticking over. Much of this is vital but dull. That said, some notable events this year include the installation of a defibrillator. A big thank you to David Costello for getting this done. Thank you, Stan Wilson, for progressing the internet/Wifi project. It should not be long before Gigaclear makes our connection.

Finally, a fond farewell and thank you to Hannah Drury who is stepping down as a Trustee and ever willing and energetic member of our team. We will miss you.

The Hall is always looking for others to join our team. If you are one of them then please get in touch.

Mike Collins  
Vice chair Beckington Memorial Hall

## **FUNDRAISING**

Our fundraising is gathering pace, we are now concentrating on raising the £12,000 needed to replace the

flooring in the play area. If you would like to sponsor a square metre of flooring (£50 for a square metre) or indeed part of a square metre, and have your name on our honours board which will be displayed in the playground, go to Just Giving and search for Beckington Memorial Hall.

### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

We are planning a pre-loved Toy Sale, with refreshments, on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Further details on Facebook and in the February edition of Network.

### **200 Club**

As we still have outstanding subscriptions to collect, the draws for October, November and December will take place at our December Committee Meeting.

---

### **Good news On Rural**

**Broadband** Article kindly submitted by James Dowling

## **Comic Fantasy – Rode Chapel**

"**Three Wise Fools**" a comic fantasy on the nativity inspired by the T S Eliot poem "The Journey of the Magi".

To be performed at Rode Chapel, High Street, Rode on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 6pm and at Wesley Methodist Church, Wesley Slope, Frome on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am.

Admission is free (donations towards costs are welcome).

Openreach have been putting in Ultrafast Broadband fibre to properties (FTTP) in Frome. They are now planning the build out into the rural areas covered by Frome exchange. They plan to finish the build by April 2024. Pretty much all suppliers (BT, Sky, Shell, Talk Talk, etc.) use Openreach's network so it might be a simple upgrade when it reaches your property. Today you are probably on a copper wire internet connection that has a speed from 70-1mbps, the further you are from the nearest Openreach cabinet the slower your connection. FTTP will give you download speeds of up to 1,000 mbps a truly transformational difference.

It is very important that you register ASAP with Openreach your interest for Ultrafast fibre. The more demand they get the more reason they have to install the equipment. Register at <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/ultrafast-full-fibre-broadband>. Please speak to your neighbours too and spread the word. There is a risk isolated properties may still not be connected.

This email will show you the area covered by Frome's exchange: <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/where-when-building-ultrafast-full-fibre-broadband#accordion-9a5353362d-item-4faa07d351>

If you fall outside this area or if Openreach won't connect you forming a Community Fibre Broadband Partnership is one option but that will take time, another is Elon Musk's Starlink a satellite broadband solution, not cheap but it does work pretty well.

## Winter Social Hub for Beckington?

A number of people are feeling that it would be good this winter if there was a place to get together for an hour or two each week: to socialise, get a break from the house (including those working from home), have a cup of tea/coffee and maybe a simple bread and soup lunch.

There is a comfortable lounge at the Lahs Place Community Centre; Tuesdays 10.30 to 1.30 has been suggested; during January and February

Do you think you might be able to help with this proposed project?

Please contact me: Andrew Kellett  
[andrew.kellett@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:andrew.kellett@blueyonder.co.uk)  
01373 830464 or 07850 310547

## Rode And District Garden Club - November Meeting

Helen Curwen welcomed members and guests to the meeting and reminded them that next month's meeting, on 11<sup>th</sup> December will be the Christmas Social, where members meet for a 'bring and share' supper. There will be a welcome drink for everyone on arrival. Members can bring a guest and should provide a savoury or sweet dish to share, plus any further drink they would like. Members were asked to let Helen or Averil know if they are coming.

In January the meeting date must be postponed by a week as the hall is unavailable on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> because the floor is being restored.

Fortunately, the speaker can make the following week so we will be meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January to hear a talk on pruning by Neil Ross. On a windy, chilly November evening it was good to be transported over 1,400 miles south to the warm island of Madeira to discover the delights and history of this island in the Atlantic. Alan Eason was well informed and through his slides shared images and information of this small fertile mountainous place.

Madeira is a volcanic island with a warm climate. It is often wet, especially in the north and has an extensive system of irrigation, so it is fertile. They produce three crops of potatoes a year and export a lot of produce: fruit, vegetables, and flowers. It has been a tourist destination for over two hundred years. Many people coming to exploit the riches its trading position, created gardens that are open to visitors today. Plants grow profusely: pelargoniums the height of trees, huge poinsettia shrubs and bougainvilleas in a variety of shades, including a very attractive pale orange. Even the planting of agapanthus, when roads are reconstructed, reinforces the structure of banks at the side and adds colour and lushness to this fascinating place.

Definitely a place worth a visit but sadly too far to put on our list for trips next summer.

## The Everlasting Turkey

On the first day of Christmas my true  
love said to me  
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a  
proper Christmas tree.

On the second day of Christmas  
much laughter could be heard  
As we tucked into our turkey – a  
most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas people  
came from just next door,  
The turkey tasted just as good as it  
had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas  
came relations young and old  
We finished up the Christmas pud  
and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas,  
outside the snowflakes scurried,  
But we were nice and warm inside,  
and had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the  
Christmas spirit died.  
The children fought and bickered –  
we had the turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my  
true love he did wince  
When he sat down at table – and  
was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the  
dog had run for shelter,

For he'd seen our turkey pancakes  
and the glass of Alka-Seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas, by  
lunchtime dad was blotto,  
He knew that bird was back again,  
this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas, we  
were drinking home-made brew,  
Anything to help us face that  
steaming turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas  
our lovely tree was moulting,  
And with chilli, soy and oyster  
sauce, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, we  
had smiles back on our lips,  
The guests had gone, the turkey too  
**WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.**

Parish Pump

## The Heart Of Christmas

We're at that time of year again! But is Christmas just about the shopping, tree or presents? At its heart, Christmas is all about a God who has showed up on earth. The Creator of the universe, whose hands flung stars into space, cared enough to come to earth as a tiny baby.

*The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.' John 1:14*

Every year we sing carols and retell the same story of the donkey, innkeeper, stable, angels, shepherds, star, wise men, gifts and Mary and Joseph with baby! Why do we do all this? It's to remind us that God deals with the mess of our world by sending His Son to die in our place. This makes it possible for us to have a relationship with Himself:

*When the time came, He "did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross  
Philippians 2:6-8*

Reflecting on Jesus in the manger is a great place to start understanding the heart of the Christmas message.

However, it's so much more than simply a cute baby lying in the bed of straw:

**If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator;**  
**If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist;**  
**If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist;**  
**If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer;**  
**But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Saviour.**

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e: annahammond@gmail.com

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**Beckington Pre-School**

**Open term time  
from 8:45am**

**Children aged 2-4  
welcome**  
**30 hours funding accepted**

**Beckington Baptist  
Church Hall**  
**[www.beckingtonpre-school.co.uk](http://www.beckingtonpre-school.co.uk)**  
**01373 831492**  
**[info@beckingtonpre-school.co.uk](mailto:info@beckingtonpre-school.co.uk)**



Charity no. 1031832

## Worship in December

We seek to work in partnership to offer a range of services across the benefice and you are very welcome at any service in any church.

The Church of St George in Beckington and the churches of Lullington and Orchardleigh are open daily for private prayer.

<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> December Advent 1</b></p>	<p>10am Matins (*) Beckington 10am All Age Worship Berkley 11am Holy Communion (*) Lullington 11.15am Holy Communion East Woodlands</p>
<p><b>10<sup>th</sup> December Advent 2</b></p>	<p>10am Holy Communion (with Baptism) Beckington 6pm Carol Service Rodden</p>
<p><b>17<sup>th</sup> December Advent 3</b></p>	<p>10am Holy Communion Berkley 11am Matins (*) with Carols Orchardleigh 11.15am Morning Carol Service East Woodlands 6pm Carols By Candlelight Beckington</p>
<p><b>Christmas Eve Advent 4</b></p>	<p>11.15am Morning Communion East Woodlands 4pm Crib Service Berkley 6pm Carol Service Lullington 11pm Midnight Communion Beckington</p>
<p><b>Christmas Day</b></p>	<p>9.30am Holy Communion (*) Rodden 10am All Age Communion Beckington</p>
<p><b>31<sup>st</sup> December</b></p>	<p>10am Benefice Holy Communion Beckington</p>

## Worship In January 2024

<p><b>7<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany 1</b></p>	<p>10am Matins (*) Beckington 10am All Age Worship Berkley 11am Holy Communion (*) Lullington 11.15am Holy Communion East Woodlands</p>
<p><b>14<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany 2</b></p>	<p>10am Holy Communion Beckington 6pm Evensong (*) Rodden</p>
<p><b>21 January Epiphany 3</b></p>	<p>10am Holy Communion Berkley 11am Matins (*) Orchardleigh 11.15am Morning Worship East Woodlands 6pm Connect Service Beckington</p>
<p><b>28<sup>th</sup> January</b></p>	<p>10am Morning Worship Beckington 11am Matins (*) Lullington 6pm Holy Communion (*) Rodden</p>
<p>(*) Traditional language using Book of Common Prayer - BCP</p>	

